



Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

**NCYI is excited to continue our very successful Parsha Nation Guides.** I hope you're enjoying and learning from Parsha Nation as much as we are. Putting together Parsha Nation every week is indeed no easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure that each section, as well as each age group, receives the attention and dedication it deserves.

**We inspire and mold future leaders.** The youth leaders of Young Israel have the distinct honor and privilege to teach and develop the youth of Young Israel. Children today are constantly looking for role models and inspirations to latch on to and learn from. Whether it is actual sit down learning sessions, exciting Parsha trivia games, or even just walking down the hall to the Kiddush room, our youth look to us and watch our every move.

**It's not always about the things we say, it's about the things we do.** Our children hear and see everything we do whether we realize it or not. This year we are taking our Youth Services to new heights as we introduce our Leadership Training Shabbaton. This engaging, interactive shabbaton will give youth leader's hands on experience and practical solutions to effectively guide your youth department.

**Informal education is key.** What the summer shows us as educators is that informal education can deliver better results and help increase our youth's connection to Hashem. More and more shuls are revamping their youth program to give their children a better connection to shul and to Hashem. The NCYI is here to help you reconnect with your youth departments and bring more participation.

**Thank you for being a light to future generations.** You are doing incredible work that should not be taken lightly. You should be proud to call yourself a Young Israel Youth Leader as you have the unique opportunity to make a real difference in so many young people's lives. Keep up the amazing work.

We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.

Our doors are always open.

**NCYI Department of Synagogue Services**  
[Youth@youngisrael.org](mailto:Youth@youngisrael.org)



### **Program Guide Breakdown**

**Theme-** Each year our curriculum will focus on a theme. By centering the entire year around one overarching theme, our youth group participants will understand different characteristics and concepts that will help them achieve this lofty goal. This year's theme is Manhigut (leadership). Our goal is for our children to view themselves as leaders and to inspire them to play a leadership role every day.

**Parsha Review-** Each week group leaders will have the opportunity to roundup the parsha in two or three paragraphs. By giving over the parsha in a short and simple way, group participants will be able to grasp the parsha as a whole and to get them to think globally and conceptually.

**Parsha Questions-** No Shabbat morning group is complete without a list of parsha questions. These questions allow group participants the opportunity to win fun prizes while increasing their Torah knowledge. Questions vary from basic understanding of story line to challenging source-based material. The answers are provided as well.

**Tefillah Treasure-** Many youth directors have asked for help when it comes to teaching tefillah to children. This is a problem that not only shuls are dealing with. Schools, camps, and youth organizations are having trouble developing creative ideas to help children understand tefillah. Over the course of the year, this section will highlight one aspect of davening by providing both the Hebrew and English text, and one explanatory idea. The older the age group, the more we delve into the idea. This section is designed to help group participants follow the flow of tefillah while understanding what they are saying.

**Group Activity-** Now the fun begins! We start off with a GOAL. Each game has a purpose. The youth leaders should familiarize themselves with the goal before implementing the game.

**Discussion Portion-** After the game is over and the participants are settled down, the youth leaders should facilitate a discussion. The guidelines for this discussion are broken down into easy to use instructions. Youth leaders should review the discussion topics and goals before the start of morning groups.

**Story-** Each week we will include a story that addresses a modern day concern with lesson taken from that week's parsha.

**Jewish Leader of the Week-** In keeping with our theme of Manhigut, every week a different Jewish Leader from modern Jewish history will be highlighted. This will allow group participants to expand their knowledge of history and to learn how they can be a Jewish leader in today's society.

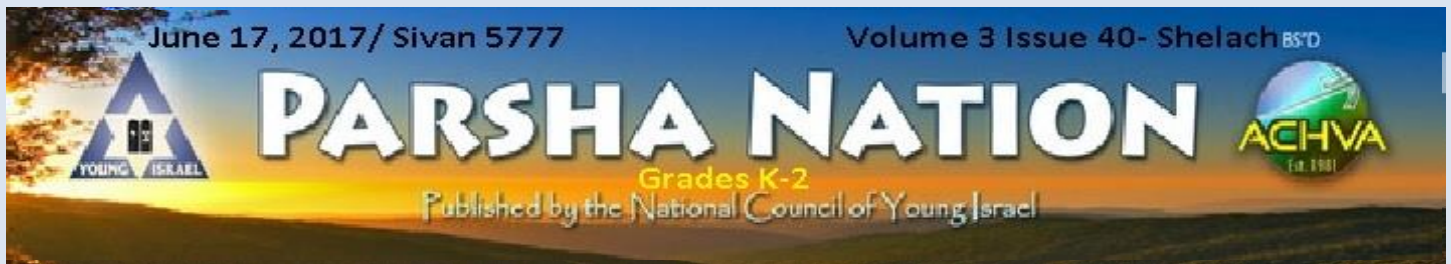
**Teen Minyan Packet-** This packet is filled with stories, riddles, points to ponder, and more.

**Leader Tip-** Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.



## *Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan*

Time Duration	Activity	Notes
5 min	Registration	Welcome parents and children in to the group room.
10-35 min	Davening	Depending on your group size and level.
5 min	Introduction to Yearly Theme (Manhigut)	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parsha Review	Prep participants for parsha questions.
10 min	Parsha Questions	Prizes and awards should also be given out if participants answer correctly
2 min	Understanding the Goal	Leaders should start prepping for Shabbat activity
30 min	Activities	Your choice of two games to play
10 min	Follow Up Discussion	Refer to materials
10 min	Parsha Song	This is for younger groups only.
20 min	Free Game Play	Groups can break for free game play or continue their own programing.
5 min	Story	Assemble in a circle and have participants read sections of the story out loud.
5-10 min	Discussion	Refer to handout
4 min	Jewish Leader of the Week	Refer to handout
4 min	Tefillah Treasures	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parent Pick up/Dismissal	Parents pick up their children.
<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>2 hours &amp; 40 min of programing!</b>	



## SHLACH REVIEW

Parshat Shelach begins with the pivotal incident of the spies' bad report about the land of Israel. As the Jewish people prepare to enter the land of Israel, they send twelve eminent leaders to survey the Promised Land, ten of whom return and deliver a bad report to the people, claiming that it would be impossible for the Jewish people to conquer the powerful nations living there. Refusing to listen to Calev and Yehoshua's good report, the entire nation cries and complains throughout a night of total hysteria. Hashem threatens the Jewish people with extermination, at which point Moses pleads successfully that they not be totally annihilated. Even so, Hashem declares that they would be punished with forty years of wandering in the desert, during which time that entire generation would die out. Realizing their grave error, a group insists on advancing into the land immediately, against Hashem's will, and is wiped out by the notorious nations of Amalek and Canaan. The Torah then shifts gears to describe the wine libations which would accompany many of the *korbanot* brought in the *Mishkan*. After teaching the details of *challah* - not to be confused with the bread we eat on Shabbat, this refers to the portion to be separated from every batch of dough and given to a *Kohen* - the Torah mentions several laws dealing with the prohibition of idol worship, and the unfortunate case of the man who received the death penalty for desecrating Shabbat. Parshat Shelach concludes with the third paragraph of the *Shema* prayer containing the mitzvah to wear *tzitzit*, which serve as a constant reminder to us of Hashem and His commandments.

**LEADER TIP:** Feel free to break out into Mission Impossible theme song at all times!

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## Questions

1. Who are the meraglim
2. Did HaShem command the Bnei Yisrael to send meraglim?
3. How many meraglim did Moshe send?
4. Why didn't the Canaanim bother the meraglim?
5. What did the spies bring back with them and what did they say?
6. Why didn't Yehoshua and Kalev bring back any fruit?
7. What day was it that the meraglim gave their evil report?
8. What else happened on this date? Why?
9. How were the Bnei Yisrael punished for accepting the evil report of the meraglim?
10. What mitzvah are we given at the end of the parsha?

**LEADER TIP:** Extra points to anyone wearing tzitzit or helped bake challah!

## Answers

1. The spies that went to check out Eretz Yisrael
2. NO. The Bnei Yisrael wanted to send them
3. Twelve (one person from each tribe)
4. The Canaanim were too busy attending funerals and burying their dead
5. They brought large fruits, including one huge cluster of grapes, and said that the land is full of strong and big people (look at the fruits!) and the land swallows up its people, they are always dying, and they are giants
6. Since they know that the other meraglim wanted to show the Bnei Yisrael the large fruit as a proof that Eretz Yisrael was a strange land, they decided not to bring any fruit at all
7. The ninth of Av
8. The Beit Hamikdash was destroyed, since HaShem said that the Jews cried for no real reason that day, so it would be a day of crying for times to come
9. For each of the forty days that the meraglim were away, the Bnei Yisrael would have to spend one year in the midbar
10. The mitzvah to wear tzitzit

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To learn about the 12 spies and how special the land of Israel really is.

## **ACTIVITY: “I-Spy”**

Gather everyone around in a circle. Pick one person to look for something they can see around them in the room, or in their vision. It can be any object at all. They start the game by saying, “I spy with my little eye something that\_\_\_\_\_”. The blank can be any clue about the object, like the letter it starts with or the color. Then have the other kids go around the circle trying to guess what the object is. Have each kid ask one question at a time. The questions should be yes/no questions. Keep guessing until someone guesses what it is and then they can start a round of their own.

## **“Hide and Go Seek”**

You’re more than welcome to play the classic version, or to spice things up play a variation. In **Chain Hide-and-Seek**, players join hands with "it" when they are found. As the chain grows and becomes unwieldy, much laughter ensues. **Sardines** is a variation where "it" hides and all the other players look for "it." As each player finds "it," he or she joins the hiding place. As the game goes on, the searchers know that they are looking for a number of kids crammed into a small space!

**DISCUSSION:** 12 leaders of Bnei Yisrael were sent to spy out the land of Israel and report back with information to Moshe about the land. They were told to investigate the land, people, cities, and they were asked to bring back some fruit from the land as well. The spies spent 40 days inspecting the country and ten of them came back saying that the country is surrounded by dangerous enemies who are stronger than they are and they would never be able to conquer it. They feel very strongly about not going into the country at all. At that point, the last two spies, Calev and Yehoshua, speak out against the other two spies and try to reason with Bnei Yisrael at a time of panic. They tell them that the land is really filled with milk and honey and they would surely be able to conquer it. The Jewish people were punished because they made a decision by looking at the very small amount of bad that they encountered and not focusing on all the good. Israel is our homeland and we as “spies” should always look at all the amazing things it has to offer and recognize it is where we were all supposed to be.

**LEADER TIP:** Tell the kids that they are secret spies on a secret mission and that the games were playing can save the world!

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** Did you hear the latest rumor? No? Good for you! Because when it comes to rumors, especially negative ones, we shouldn't believe everything we hear. In this week's Torah portion, the men who were sent to scout out the land of Israel came back spreading false negative rumors. The people made the mistake of believing them and were afraid to go into the land even though God promised them everything would be fine. Consequently, they had to wander in the wilderness for an extra 40 years, and we are still paying the price for that mistake until today. We'll save ourselves a lot of unnecessary grief by making it a point to stay optimistic and view things positively until proven otherwise - and that's not just a rumor.

## "UNBELIEVABLE!"

Josh Kramer's muscles ached as he put back his books, and pulled out his well-worn baseball glove from his locker after a long day of classes. Yesterday's baseball try-outs had been a killer, but he figured all the effort would be worth it if it would land him a position on the school team.

He quickly put on his sweat jacket, flipped his locker closed and was about to dash off to the baseball field when he nearly crashed into his buddy, Greg, who, unlike Josh, had been on the team last year.

"Hey Josh, where are you off to in such a rush?"

"Where do you think? The same place as you are - back for the second day of try-outs. Today they're giving out the team assignments and coach said anybody who doesn't show up is automatically cut from the team." He had expected Greg to smile, and go along with him, but instead the boy just looked at him and sadly shook his head.

"I hate to break it to you, man. But I guess you didn't hear..."

"Hear what?" Josh asked with growing concern.

"Well, after the try-outs I hung around with some of the guys I knew from last year's team. And everybody's saying that since so many kids tried out this year, the coach isn't picking anyone new, and is only letting people back on the team who were on it last year."

Josh felt his face flushing red. Had he put in all that effort yesterday for nothing?

"So that means, I'm sorry to say, that I'm in - and you're out," Greg continued just to make sure Josh got the point. "So you might as well save yourself the sweat and just go home."

With that, Greg turned on his heels and started heading toward the field, leaving Josh in open-mouthed shock.

*That stinks!* Josh thought to himself. *It's so unfair! But Greg seems to know what he's talking about.* Josh glumly tossed his baseball glove back into his locker, now feeling his aching muscles more than ever, and got ready for the long trek home.

He didn't get far when he had second thoughts. He had worked so hard yesterday, and now because of some dumb rumor, was he going to give up any chance he had to make the team? Maybe Greg had gotten it wrong. Maybe there was a chance he'd at least make the junior team.

With a new burst of energy, Josh grabbed his glove and ran out to the field. Would he be too late? He got there just as the coach was reading off the names of the kids who made the team. He joined the line-up and caught Greg's eye as his friend gave him a sharp look.

But Josh's heart sank as the coach read name after name. It looked like the rumor had been true after all, because the coach finished reading off the whole junior team roster and while Greg had made it, just like he said he would, Josh's name was nowhere to be found.

He felt a hard slap on the back. "I told you man, you didn't have to waste your time. Well there's always next year, right?" Greg said with an 'I-told-you-so' smile.

By now, the coach was listing off the more advanced senior team, but Josh was too down to even bother listening.

He started packing up to leave when he felt a tug on his sleeve. It was a kid he didn't know. "You're Josh Kramer, right?"

"Yeah, so?"

"So..." said the kid with a smile, "go over to the coach! Didn't you hear him just call your name for the senior team roster?"

Josh couldn't believe it, but the amazed look he got from Greg proved it was true. "Unbelievable," Greg said.

"Just unbelievable!" Josh agreed.

Unbelievable - that he had made the team, and even more so that he hadn't blown it by believing the rumor, which had in the end proved to be un-believable.



## Discussion Questions:

Q. How did Josh feel when he first heard the rumor?

A. He felt that it must be true, so there was no point for him to return to the try-outs.

Q. How did he feel in the end? A. He was glad he made the team, and even more glad he didn't let a disappointing rumor stop him from trying.

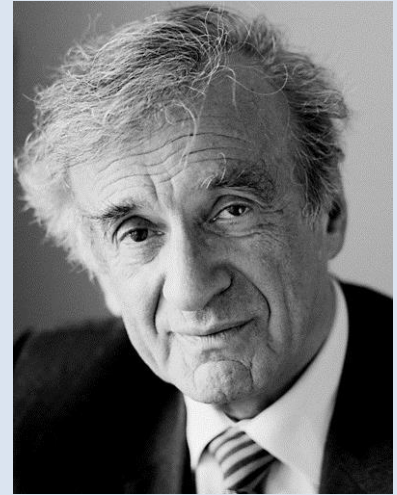
**LEADER TIP:** Go around the circle and have everyone say something positive about the person to their right.

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Elie Wiesel

(Born: September 30, 1928)

Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Romania, on September 30, 1928. A Nobel Peace Prize winner and Boston University professor, Wiesel has worked on behalf of oppressed people for much of his adult life. His personal experience of the Holocaust has led him to use his talents as an author, teacher, and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world. A native of Sighet, Transylvania (Romania, from 1940-1945 Hungary), Wiesel and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz when he was 15 years old. His mother and younger sister perished there, his two older sisters survived. Wiesel and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died. After the war, Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist in that city, yet he remained silent about what he has endured as an inmate in the camps. During an interview with the French writer Francois Mauriac, Wiesel was persuaded to end that silence. He subsequently wrote *La Nuit* (Night). Since its publication in 1958, *La Nuit* has been translated into 30 languages and millions of copies have been sold. In *Night*, Wiesel describes his experiences and emotions at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust: the roundup of his family and neighbors in the Romanian town of Sighet; deportation by cattle car to the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; the division of his family forever during the selection process; the mental and physical anguish he and his fellow prisoners experienced as they were stripped of their humanity; and the death march from Auschwitz-Birkenau to the concentration camp at Buchenwald.



**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever gone through a very difficult situation and after you made it through you felt the need to help others?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Asher Yatzar

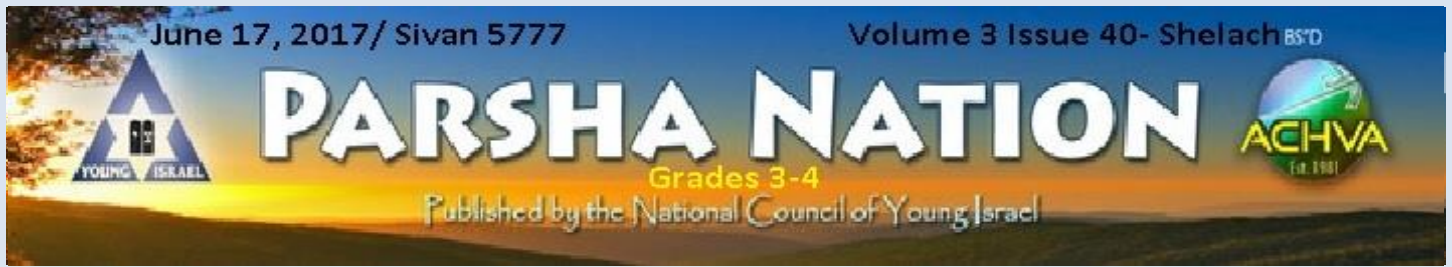
*"Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who formed man with wisdom and created within him many openings and many hollows (cavities). It is obvious and known before Your Throne of Glory that if but one of them were to be ruptured or if one of them were to be blocked it would be impossible to survive and to stand before You (even for a short period of time). Blessed are You, Hashem, Who heals all flesh and acts wonderously."*

**The awesome bracha of Asher Yatzar, (literally "who formed"), which refers to the complexity of the human body, thanks Hashem for creating our body and for the continuous daily miracle of its proper functioning. It is recited every morning as part of the Birchat HaShachar, (Morning Blessings) and again, every time after using the bathroom. Yes, every time after using the bathroom, we wash our hands, and thank Hashem for maintaining our health and well being by reciting the bracha - Asher Yatzar. We shouldn't wait until we get sick to appreciate our health.**

**Asher Yatzar is mentioned in the Talmud (Berachot 60b) as one of the brachot compiled by the Anshei Knesset HaGedolah.**

**The Chafetz Chaim and other Great Sages write that the reciting of Asher Yatzar with the proper Kavanah (sincerity, devotion, intent) and from the written text, has the power to help one have a healthy body all of their life. There are many people who were saved from a severe illness by saying this Bracha from the written text with the proper kavanah. This is an easy way to keep down all those doctor fees!!**

**LEADER TIP:** How incredible is the human body? If any little little thing would stop working, our whole body would stop working! It's amazing how awesome Hashem is!



## SHLACH REVIEW

Parshat Shelach begins with the pivotal incident of the spies' bad report about the land of Israel. As the Jewish people prepare to enter the land of Israel, they send twelve eminent leaders to survey the Promised Land, ten of whom return and deliver a bad report to the people, claiming that it would be impossible for the Jewish people to conquer the powerful nations living there. Refusing to listen to Calev and Yehoshua's good report, the entire nation cries and complains throughout a night of total hysteria. Hashem threatens the Jewish people with extermination, at which point Moses pleads successfully that they not be totally annihilated. Even so, Hashem declares that they would be punished with forty years of wandering in the desert, during which time that entire generation would die out. Realizing their grave error, a group insists on advancing into the land immediately, against Hashem's will, and is wiped out by the notorious nations of Amalek and Canaan. The Torah then shifts gears to describe the wine libations which would accompany many of the *korbanot* brought in the *Mishkan*. After teaching the details of *challah* - not to be confused with the bread we eat on Shabbat, this refers to the portion to be separated from every batch of dough and given to a *Kohen* - the Torah mentions several laws dealing with the prohibition of idol worship, and the unfortunate case of the man who received the death penalty for desecrating Shabbat. Parshat Shelach concludes with the third paragraph of the *Shema* prayer containing the mitzvah to wear *tzitzit*, which serve as a constant reminder to us of Hashem and His commandments.

**LEADER TIP:** Feel free to break out into Mission Impossible theme song at all times!

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## QUESTIONS

1. Why is the parsha of the meraglim (spies) right after the parsha that tells us that Miriam spoke lashon hara about Moshe?
2. Did HaShem command the Bnei Yisrael to send meraglim?
3. How many meraglim did Moshe send?
4. What was one purpose of seeing whether or not the people were strong?
5. What was one purpose of seeing whether or not the land was good?
6. Why didn't the Canaanim bother the meraglim?
7. What did the spies bring back with them and what did they say?
8. Why didn't Yehoshua and Kalev bring back any fruit?
9. How did the meraglim come back after only forty days? Doesn't it take longer than that to travel through all of Eretz Yisrael?
10. What day was it that the meraglim gave their evil report?
11. What else happened on this date? Why?
12. How were the Bnei Yisrael punished for accepting the evil report of the meraglim?
13. What is one reason why HaShem told us to wear tzitzit?
14. Where were the tzitzit placed?
15. What other mitzvah is mentioned in the parsha of tzitzit?

**LEADER TIP:** Extra points to anyone wearing tzitzit or helped bake challah!

## ANSWERS

1. To teach us that the meraglim should have learned from Miriam not to speak lashon hara (unfortunately, they didn't)
2. NO. The Bnei Yisrael wanted to send them
3. Twelve (one person from each tribe)
4. So that Moshe would know whether he needed to send the entire army or not
5. So that Moshe would know if there was enough food and water there to feed the army, or if the army needed to bring its own food and water
6. The Canaanim were too busy attending funerals and burying their dead
7. They brought large fruits, including one huge cluster of grapes, and said that the land is full of strong and big people (look at the fruits!) and the land swallows up its people, they are always dying, and they are giants
8. Since they know that the other meraglim wanted to show the Bnei Yisrael the large fruit as a proof that Eretz Yisrael was a strange land, they decided not to bring any fruit at all
9. HaShem knew that the Bnei Yisrael would be punished for one year for each day the meraglim were away, so HaShem helped them return very quickly so their punishment would be less
10. The ninth of Av
11. The Beit Hamikdash was destroyed, since HaShem said that the Jews cried for no real reason that day, so it would be a day of crying for times to come
12. For each of the forty days that the meraglim were away, the Bnei Yisrael would have to spend one year in the midbar
13. So that we should remember all the 613 motzvot of HaShem. (א=90, י=10, ש=90, ו=10, ת=400, for a total of 600. Plus 8 strings and 5 knots = 613)
14. One on each of the four corners of the clothing
15. To remember that HaShem took us out of Egypt

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To learn about the 12 spies and how special the land of Israel really is.

## **ACTIVITY: “Meraglim Scavenger Hunt”**

Split the group up into teams. You can even assign a team captain or “Head Spy” to each team. Explain to them that they are secret spies who are on a top secret mission. Put out about ten clues around the shul or whatever area you are in. Create 4 line rhyming poems sending them to different locations such as aron kodesh, bimah, coat room, bathroom, front door, etc. Here are a number of different examples of places you can use...

- **UPSTAIRS**

Hashem is here, Hashem is there, Hashem is truly everywhere.  
He could be down, He could be right, He’s runs the world with all his might.  
When parents come to shul to pray, the kids go here so they can play.  
Hashem is also up and all over the air, to get to this clue you may need the stairs.

- **BIMAH**

This is where the leader stands, way up in the air go his hands.  
To show everyone what to do, it’s a very important place for every Jew.  
Sometimes we read and sometimes we sing, whatever it is its very exciting.  
This next clue is where the chazzan is to be, so hurry up and come find me!

- **WOMENS SECTION**

Sometimes it’s hard to see back here, but we can still hear davening loud and clear.  
We have kavanah with the best of them, as we daven to Hashem.  
We dress real nice here sometimes with hats, no men allowed and nor are cats.  
To find this clue you may need a lady, or your Bubbe but not your Zaide!

- **TORAH**

When my doors open everyone must rise, and up at me everyone turns their eyes.  
I may be a closet but there are no shoes, but there are many Torahs for you to choose.  
Sometimes the Rabbi will even speak near me, so that everyone could clearly see.  
To come find me you must have respect, so calmly come find me and see if you’re correct!

- **UNDER BENCH**

Sometimes its stuffy and you need fresh air, so take a step out and go out there.  
But I don’t really want to stand too long, I’d prefer to sit and sing a song.  
But to sit by myself? Well that’s not fun, I’d rather sit with everyone!  
Come find this clue but don’t go too far, we still want to know where you are!

- **TREE**

I may not seem like a girl or boy, but I love my birthday too, o what a joy!  
It’s not in June or even December, but its in Shvat, I hope you remember!  
Its Tu, not the second day, but rather “Tet’Vav”, everyone celebrates, I really feel the love!  
You may need your shoes to find this clue, so come and find me! Can’t wait to see you!

- **TEEN MINYAN**

When you feel like the shul is filled with old folk, come over here and we'll tell you a joke! This is a special shul for kids who are rad, and so we don't have to sit with our mom or our dad.

We lead the davening and we run the show, we are real awesome, I hope that you know! So please walk in nicely and in a straight line, and no one will get hurt and all will be fine!

- SEFARDI SHUL

How come on pesach they can eat rice? And I'm stuck with matzah? Well that's not too nice! This is a place that's also real holy, to be very spiritual and inspire your soul-y. Sometimes their davening sounds a little bit odd, but that doesn't mean that their customs are fraud. Grab your darbookas and spices and join the party, because this shul is different, this shul is \_\_\_\_\_?

- COATS

In Florida the weather can always change, from thunderstorms to heat waves it will always range.

On the way to shul you must stay dry, so that you don't ruin your suit or tie.

Although carrying this around could sometimes be a pain, because it's all wet from the rain.

Where would you put this thing we speak? Come find the clue there, take a peak!

- CHADAR OCHEL

If there's one thing we Jews do well, it's eating food we all can tell.

Chicken, cholent, and lots of meat, so come in here and take a seat!

Join your friends around the table, invite your family if they're able!

In here you'll find the last part of the maze, put it all together and scream that phrase!

At each station, there should be an envelope with three things in it- a clue for the next station, a puzzle piece, and a letter/word/number for a magic phrase. Each group will collect a puzzle piece at each station and need to put it together once they get all 10 clues. Additionally, they must put together their "magic phrase" and scream it out as a team.

For the puzzles, you can use different things about Israel- ex: shiva minim, Israeli foods, Israelis sights, famous Israeli people, etc. Print out each picture and cut them up into 10 puzzle pieces. For the phrase, you can either come up with your own phrase and put one word in each envelope for the team to put together, OR you can send them to a passuk, where they will put together the sefer/perek/pasuk and then have to quickly go find a chumash to look it up. You can use the passuk of Hashem promising us the land (Beresheit 13:15). Or even better would be to use the phrase/pasuk that the land is very very good (tova haaretz meod meod), which is Bamidbar 14:7-8. The first team to have their puzzle made and scream the magic phrase together, wins!

**DISCUSSION:** 12 leaders of Bnei Yisrael were sent to spy out the land of Israel and report back with information to Moshe about the land. They were told to investigate the land, people, cities, and they were asked to bring back some fruit from the land as well. The spies spent 40 days inspecting the country and ten of them came back saying that the country is surrounded by dangerous enemies who are stronger than they are and they would never be able to conquer it. They feel very strongly about not going into the country at all. At that point, the last two spies, Calev and Yehoshua, speak out against the other two spies and try to reason with Bnei Yisrael at a time of panic. They tell them that the land is really filled with milk and honey and they would surely be able to conquer it. The Jewish people were punished because they made a decision by looking at the very small amount of bad that they encountered and not focusing on all the good. Sometimes Hashem gives us part of a gift, and wants us to be able to work hard for the rest. Hashem would never ever put us in a situation we can't handle. Everything Hashem does is for the best. Also, anything worthwhile in the world takes hard work, and what greater thing than Israel? We need to try and take what Hashem gives us and always

try to stay positive and optimistic about it, because we know everything that comes from Hashem is great. It is ok to be down sometimes, and think we can't do something. But we shouldn't convince ourselves that it is impossible or the wrong thing to do. We should give it our all and work as hard as we can. Israel is our homeland and we as "spies" should always look at all the amazing things it has to offer and recognize it is where we were all supposed to be.

**LEADER TIP:** If you have enough people, split up into 12 groups representing the 12 spies. After each group comes back, ask the "Head Spy" for a report on everything that happened.



# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** Did you hear the latest rumor? No? Good for you! Because when it comes to rumors, especially negative ones, we shouldn't believe everything we hear. In this week's Torah portion, the men who were sent to scout out the land of Israel came back spreading false negative rumors. The people made the mistake of believing them and were afraid to go into the land even though God promised them everything would be fine. Consequently, they had to wander in the wilderness for an extra 40 years, and we are still paying the price for that mistake until today. We'll save ourselves a lot of unnecessary grief by making it a point to stay optimistic and view things positively until proven otherwise - and that's not just a rumor.

## "UNBELIEVABLE!"

Josh Kramer's muscles ached as he put back his books, and pulled out his well-worn baseball glove from his locker after a long day of classes. Yesterday's baseball try-outs had been a killer, but he figured all the effort would be worth it if it would land him a position on the school team.

He quickly put on his sweat jacket, flipped his locker closed and was about to dash off to the baseball field when he nearly crashed into his buddy, Greg, who, unlike Josh, had been on the team last year.

"Hey Josh, where are you off to in such a rush?"

"Where do you think? The same place as you are - back for the second day of try-outs. Today they're giving out the team assignments and coach said anybody who doesn't show up is automatically cut from the team." He had expected Greg to smile, and go along with him, but instead the boy just looked at him and sadly shook his head.

"I hate to break it to you, man. But I guess you didn't hear..."

"Hear what?" Josh asked with growing concern.

"Well, after the try-outs I hung around with some of the guys I knew from last year's team. And everybody's saying that the since so many kids tried out this year, the coach isn't picking anyone new, and is only letting people back on the team who were on it last year."

Josh felt his face flushing red. Had he put in all that effort yesterday for nothing?

"So that means, I'm sorry to say, that I'm in - and you're out," Greg continued just to make sure Josh got the point. "So you might as well save yourself the sweat and just go home."

With that, Greg turned on his heels and started heading toward the field, leaving Josh in open-mouthed shock.

*That stinks!* Josh thought to himself. *It's so unfair! But Greg seems to know what he's talking about.* Josh glumly tossed his baseball glove back into his locker, now feeling his aching muscles more than ever, and got ready for the long trek home.

He didn't get far when he had second thoughts. He had worked so hard yesterday, and now because of some dumb rumor, was he going to give up any chance he had to make the team? Maybe Greg had gotten it wrong. Maybe there was a chance he'd at least make the junior team.

With a new burst of energy, Josh grabbed his glove and ran out to the field. Would he be too late? He got there just as the coach was reading off the names of the kids who made the team. He joined the line-up and caught Greg's eye as his friend gave him a sharp look.

But Josh's heart sank as the coach read name after name. It looked like the rumor had been true after all, because the coach finished reading off the whole junior team roster and while Greg had made it, just like he said he would, Josh's name was nowhere to be found.

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By now, the coach was listing off the more advanced senior team, but Josh was too down to even bother listening.

He started packing up to leave when he felt a tug on his sleeve. It was a kid he didn't know. "You're Josh Kramer, right?"

"Yeah, so?"

"So..." said the kid with a smile, "go over to the coach! Didn't you hear him just call your name for the senior team roster?"

Josh couldn't believe it, but the amazed look he got from Greg proved it was true. "Unbelievable," Greg said.

"Just unbelievable!" Josh agreed.

Unbelievable - that he had made the team, and even more so that he hadn't blown it by believing the rumor, which had in the end proved to be un-believable.

## Discussion Questions :

Q. What lesson did Josh learn that day?

A. He learned not to mix up rumor with fact. He would have blown his chance to make the team if he had accepted Greg's plausible sounding rumor, and not gone back for the second day of try-outs.

Q. Had the rumor been true and no new players been chosen, would you say Josh made the wrong decision by going back?

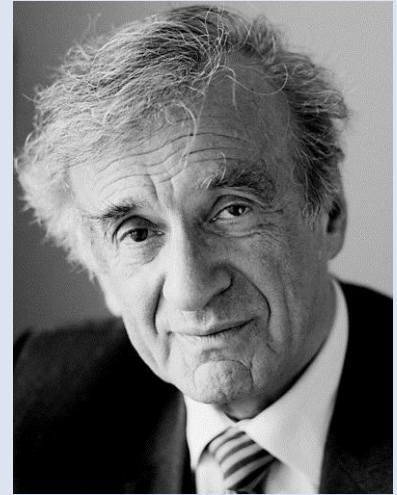
A. No. It still would have been the proper thing to do based on the situation. We should never regret doing what's right even if it doesn't work out as we hoped.

**LEADER TIP:** Go around the circle and have everyone say something positive about the person to their right.

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Elie Wiesel

(Born: September 30, 1928)



Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Romania, on September 30, 1928. A Nobel Peace Prize winner and Boston University professor, Wiesel has worked on behalf of oppressed people for much of his adult life. His personal experience of the Holocaust has led him to use his talents as an author, teacher, and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world. A native of Sighet, Transylvania (Romania, from 1940-1945 Hungary), Wiesel and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz when he was 15 years old. His mother and younger sister perished there, his two older sisters survived. Wiesel and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died. After the war, Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist in that city, yet he remained silent about what he has endured as an inmate in the camps. During an interview with the French writer Francois Mauriac, Wiesel was persuaded to end that silence. He subsequently wrote *La Nuit* (Night). Since its publication in 1958, *La Nuit* has been translated into 30 languages and millions of copies have been sold. In *Night*, Wiesel describes his experiences and emotions at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust: the roundup of his family and neighbors in the Romanian town of Sighet; deportation by cattle car to the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; the division of his family forever during the selection process; the mental and physical anguish he and his fellow prisoners experienced as they were stripped of their humanity; and the death march from Auschwitz-Birkenau to the concentration camp at Buchenwald. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed him Chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. In 1980, he became Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Wiesel is also the founding president of the Paris-based Universal Academy of Cultures. Wiesel's efforts to defend human rights and peace throughout the world have earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Liberty Award, the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor, and in 1986, the Nobel Peace Prize. He has received more than 100 honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever gone through a very difficult situation and after you made it through you felt the need to help others?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Asher Yatzar

*"Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who formed man with wisdom and created within him many openings and many hollows (cavities). It is obvious and known before Your Throne of Glory that if but one of them were to be ruptured or if one of them were to be blocked it would be impossible to survive and to stand before You (even for a short period of time). Blessed are You, Hashem, Who heals all flesh and acts wonderously."*

**The awesome bracha of Asher Yatzar, (literally "who formed"), which refers to the complexity of the human body, thanks Hashem for creating our body and for the continuous daily miracle of its proper functioning. It is recited every morning as part of the Birchat HaShachar, (Morning Blessings) and again, every time after using the bathroom.**

**Yes, every time after using the bathroom, we wash our hands, and thank Hashem for maintaining our health and well being by reciting the bracha - Asher Yatzar. We shouldn't wait until we get sick to appreciate our health.**

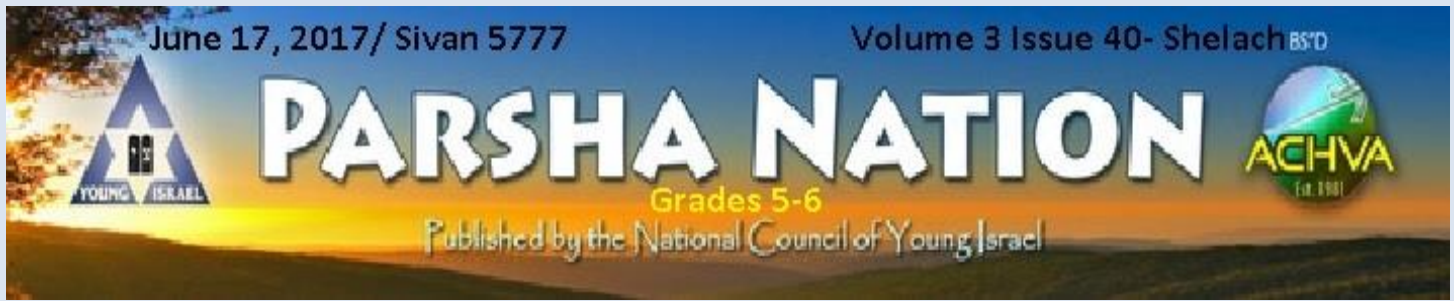
**Asher Yatzar is mentioned in the Talmud (Berachot 60b) as one of the brachot compiled by the Anshei Knesset HaGedolah.**

**The Chafetz Chaim and other Great Sages write that the reciting of Asher Yatzar with the proper Kavanah (sincerity, devotion, intent) and from the written text, has the power to help one have a healthy body all of their life. There are many people who were saved from a severe illness by saying this Bracha from the written text with the proper kavanah. This is an easy way to keep down all those doctor fees!!**

**A sad and worried Jew once came to visit the Chazon Ish (Rav Yeshaya Karelitz) in Bnei Brak. When the man entered, the Chazon Ish was saying the Asher Yatzar Bracha. He pronounced each word slowly and clearly. The man couldn't contain himself any longer and blurted out, "My child has polio and the doctors say there's no hope."**

**The Chazon Ish emphasized the last words of the bracha, "Who heals all flesh and acts wonderously." The Chazon Ish then turned to the man and said, "So, you hear that Hashem does wonders." This is all the Chazon Ish said to the man. The child had a completely recovery.**

**LEADER TIP:** How incredible is the human body? If any little little thing would stop working, our whole body would stop working! It's amazing how awesome Hashem is!



## SHLACH REVIEW

Parshat Shelach begins with the pivotal incident of the spies' bad report about the land of Israel. As the Jewish people prepare to enter the land of Israel, they send twelve eminent leaders to survey the Promised Land, ten of whom return and deliver a bad report to the people, claiming that it would be impossible for the Jewish people to conquer the powerful nations living there. Refusing to listen to Calev and Yehoshua's good report, the entire nation cries and complains throughout a night of total hysteria. Hashem threatens the Jewish people with extermination, at which point Moses pleads successfully that they not be totally annihilated. Even so, Hashem declares that they would be punished with forty years of wandering in the desert, during which time that entire generation would die out. Realizing their grave error, a group insists on advancing into the land immediately, against Hashem's will, and is wiped out by the notorious nations of Amalek and Canaan. The Torah then shifts gears to describe the wine libations which would accompany many of the *korbanot* brought in the *Mishkan*. After teaching the details of *challah* - not to be confused with the bread we eat on Shabbat, this refers to the portion to be separated from every batch of dough and given to a *Kohen* - the Torah mentions several laws dealing with the prohibition of idol worship, and the unfortunate case of the man who received the death penalty for desecrating Shabbat. Parshat Shelach concludes with the third paragraph of the *Shema* prayer containing the mitzvah to wear *tzitzit*, which serve as a constant reminder to us of Hashem and His commandments.

**LEADER TIP:** Feel free to break out into Mission Impossible theme song at all times!

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## QUESTIONS

1. Why is the parsha of the meraglim (spies) right after the parsha that tells us that Miriam spoke lashon hara about Moshe?
2. Did HaShem command the Bnei Yisrael to send meraglim?
3. How many meraglim did Moshe send?
4. Whose name did Moshe change?
5. How did Moshe change Yehoshua's name? Why?
6. What was one purpose of seeing whether or not the people were strong?
7. What was one purpose of seeing whether or not the land was good?
8. Why did Kalev stop in Chevron?
9. Why didn't the Canaanim bother the meraglim?
10. What did the spies bring back with them and what did they say?
11. Why didn't Yehoshua and Kalev bring back any fruit?
12. How did the meraglim come back after only forty days? Doesn't it take longer than that to travel through all of Eretz Yisrael?
13. What day was it that the meraglim gave their evil report?
14. What else happened on this date? Why?
15. How were the Bnei Yisrael punished for accepting the evil report of the meraglim?
16. What is one reason why HaShem told us to wear tzitzit?
17. Where were the tzitzit placed?
18. What is the techeilet made from?
19. Why don't we have techeilet now?
20. What other mitzvah is mentioned in the parsha of tzitzit?

## ANSWERS

1. To teach us that the meraglim should have learned from Miriam not to speak lashon hara (unfortunately, they didn't)
2. NO. The Bnei Yisrael wanted to send them
3. Twelve (one person from each tribe)
4. Hoshea to Yehoshua
5. He changed it from Hoshea to yehoshua, adding the letter Yud which means HaShem, as a prayer that HaShem should save him from the other spies' ideas
6. So that Moshe would know whether he needed to send the entire army or not
7. So that Moshe would know if there was enough food and water there to feed the army, or if the army needed to bring its own food and water
8. To daven at the Me'erot Hamachpelah that he shouldn't follow the bad ideas of the meraglim
9. The Canaanim were too busy attending funerals and burying their dead
10. They brought large fruits, including one huge cluster of grapes, and said that the land is full of strong and big people (look at the fruits!) and the land swallows up its people, they are always dying, and they are giants
11. Since they know that the other meraglim wanted to show the Bnei Yisrael the large fruit as a proof that Eretz Yisrael was a strange land, they decided not to bring any fruit at all
12. HaShem knew that the Bnei Yisrael would be punished for one year for each day the meraglim were away, so HaShem helped them return very quickly so their punishment would be less
13. The ninth of Av
14. The Beit Hamikdash was destroyed, since HaShem said that the Jews cried for no real reason that day, so it would be a day of crying for times to come
15. For each of the forty days that the meraglim were away, the Bnei Yisrael would have to spend one year in the midbar
16. So that we should remember all the 613 motzvot of HaShem. (2=90, 1=10, 2=90, 1=10, 1=400, for a total of 600. Plus 8 strings and 5 knots = 613)
17. One on each of the four corners of the clothing
18. The Chilazon which lives in the sea
19. We don't know what the chilazon is
20. To remember that HaShem took us out of Egypt

**LEADER TIP:** Extra points to anyone wearing tzitzit or helped bake challah!

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To learn about the 12 spies and how special the land of Israel really is.

## **ACTIVITY: “Meraglim Scavenger Hunt”**

Split the group up in to teams. You can ever assign a team captain or “Head Spy” to each team. Explain to them that they are secret spies who are on a top secret mission. Put out a bout ten clues around the shul or whatever area you are in. Create 4 line rhyming poems sending them to different locations such as aron kodesh, bimah, coat room, bathroom, front door, etc. Here are a number of different examples of places you can use...

- **UPSTAIRS**

Hashem is here, Hashem is there, Hashem is truly everywhere.  
He could be down, He could be right, He’s runs the world with all his might.  
When parents come to shul to pray, the kids go here so they can play.  
Hashem is also up and all over the air, to get to this clue you may need the stairs.

- **BIMAH**

This is where the leader stands, way up in the air go his hands.  
To show everyone what to do, it’s a very important place for every Jew.  
Sometimes we read and sometimes we sing, whatever it is its very exciting.  
This next clue is where the chazzan is to be, so hurry up and come find me!

- **WOMENS SECTION**

Sometimes it’s hard to see back here, but we can still hear davening loud and clear.  
We have kavanah with the best of them, as we daven to Hashem.  
We dress real nice here sometimes with hats, no men allowed and nor are cats.  
To find this clue you may need a lady, or your Bubbe but not your Zaide!

- **TORAH**

When my doors open everyone must rise, and up at me everyone turns their eyes.  
I may be a closet but there are no shoes, but there are many Torahs for you to choose.  
Sometimes the Rabbi will even speak near me, so that everyone could clearly see.  
To come find me you must have respect, so calmly come find me and see if youre correct!

- **UNDER BENCH**

Sometimes its stuffy and you need fresh air, so take a step out and go out there.  
But I don’t really want to stand too long, I’d prefer to sit and sing a song.  
But to sit by myself? Well that’s not fun, I’d rather sit with everyone!  
Come find this clue but don’t go too far, we still want to know where you are!

- **TREE**

I may not seem like a girl or boy, but I love my birthday too, o what a joy!  
It’s not in June or even December, but its in Shvat, I hope you remember!  
Its Tu, not the second day, but rather “Tet’Vav”, everyone celebrates, I really feel the love!  
You may need your shoes to find this clue, so come and find me! Can’t wait to see you!

- **TEEN MINYAN**

When you feel like the shul is filled with old folk, come over here and we’ll tell you a joke!



This is a special shul for kids who are rad, and so we don't have to sit with our mom or our dad.

We lead the davening and we run the show, we are real awesome, I hope that you know!  
So please walk in nicely and in a straight line, and no one will get hurt and all will be fine!

- SEFARDI SHUL

How come on pesach they can eat rice? And I'm stuck with matzah? Well that's not too nice!  
This is a place that's also real holy, to be very spiritual and inspire your soul-y.

Sometimes their davening sounds a little bit odd, but that doesn't mean that their customs are fraud.

Grab your darbookas and spices and join the party, because this shul is different, this shul is \_\_\_\_\_?

- COATS

In Florida the weather can always change, from thunderstorms to heat waves it will always range.

On the way to shul you must stay dry, so that you don't ruin your suit or tie.

Although carrying this around could sometimes be a pain, because it's all wet from the rain.

Where would you put this thing we speak? Come find the clue there, take a peak!

- CHADAR OCHEL

If there's one thing we Jews do well, it's eating food we all can tell.

Chicken, cholent, and lots of meat, so come in here and take a seat!

Join your friends around the table, invite your family if they're able!

In here you'll find the last part of the maze, put it all together and scream that phrase!

At each station, there should be an envelope with three things in it- a clue for the next station, a puzzle piece, and a letter/word/number for a magic phrase. Each group will collect a puzzle piece at each station and need to put it together once they get all 10 clues. Additionally, they must put together their "magic phrase" and scream it out as a team. Additionally, at each station, make each group do a specific challenge or task in order to get their next envelope. Make them line up in order of birthday, height, or shoe size, get from one side of the room to the other using stair and not standing on the ground, army challenges, etc.

For the puzzles, you can use different things about Israel- ex: shiva minim, Israeli foods, Israelis sights, famous Israeli people, etc. Print out each picture and cut them up into 10 puzzle pieces. For the phrase, you can either come up with your own phrase and put one word in each envelope for the team to put together, OR you can send them to a passuk, where they will put together the sefer/perek/pasuk and then have to quickly go find a chumash to look it up. You can use the passuk of Hashem promising us the land (Beresheit 13:15). Or even better would be to use the phrase/pasuk that the land is very very god (tova haaretz meod meod), which is Bamidbar 14:7-8. The first team to have their puzzle made and scream the magic phrase together, wins!

**DISCUSSION:** 12 leaders of Bnei Yisrael were sent to spy out the land of Israel and report back with information to Moshe about the land. They were told to investigate the land, people, cities, and they were asked to bring back some fruit from the land as well. The spies spent 40 days inspecting the country and ten of them came back saying that the country is surrounded by dangerous enemies who are stronger than they are and they would never be able to conquer it. They feel very strongly about not going into the country at all. At that point, the last two spies, Calev and Yehoshua, speak out

against the other two spies and try to reason with Bnei Yisrael at a time of panic. They tell them that the land is really filled with milk and honey and they would surely be able to conquer it. The scouts returned after 40 days and the Jews panicked upon hearing their report. The scouts claimed that they could not enter the land. It was well protected by great and powerful nations. The Torah tells us that the Jews felt that G-d hated them and was planning on causing them to be killed at the hands of these nations. They even went as far as to say that even G-d could not stand up against the nations of Canaan. Our sages explain that what they meant is that as a result of their having worshipped the Golden Calf, and other sins they had committed, they would no longer merit G-d's help, and they had to resort to natural strategies.

Rav Dessler explains that this was a very subtle, but grave sin. The Jews were really struggling with the aforementioned balance between trust and human effort. They leaned toward more human effort when less was indeed required. All that they complained about was really a subtle lie which they convinced themselves of out of fear.

The lesson we learn from this event is that our attitudes are easily swayed by subtle concerns which we harbor in our hearts. We must always question our motivations and approaches - where are they coming from? Rav Dessler says that the human being can discern what is not the objectively correct approach - if he wants to. Sometimes fears or other considerations can cause one not to want to discern. The Torah is teaching us the repercussions of that kind of attitude.

**LEADER TIP:** If you have enough people, split up into 12 groups representing the 12 spies. After each group comes back, ask the "Head Spy" for a report on everything that happened.

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"Just unbelievable!" Josh agreed.

Unbelievable - that he had made the team, and even more so that he hadn't blown it by believing the rumor, which had in the end proved to be un-believable.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Q. How do you think a person should react to a rumor he hears?

A. If the rumor has no practical affect on our lives-best to just let it go in one ear and out of the other. If it could affect us were it true then we can keep in mind that it might possibly be true and act to protect ourselves if necessary, but we should never do anything to harm anyone else because of it.

Q. A Jewish sage once said: "Not everything thought must be said; not everything said must be written down; nor must everything written down be published." What do you think is the lesson in that statement?

A. The message is that we should take our ability to communicate seriously. We should know that our words carry a great potential to either heal or harm, and we should think twice before we either speak or believe what we hear.

**LEADER TIP:** Go around the circle and have everyone say something positive about

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Elie Wiesel

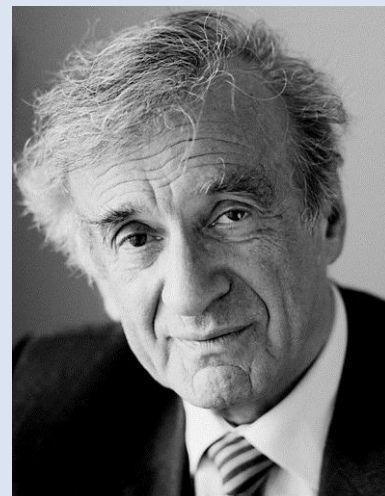
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Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Romania, on September 30, 1928. A Nobel Peace Prize winner and Boston University professor, Wiesel has worked on behalf of oppressed people for much of his adult life. His personal experience of the Holocaust has led him to use his talents as an author, teacher, and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world.

A native of Sighet, Transylvania (Romania, from 1940-1945 Hungary), Wiesel and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz when he was 15 years old. His mother and younger sister perished there, his two older sisters survived. Wiesel and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died.

After the war, Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist in that city, yet he remained silent about what he has endured as an inmate in the camps. During an interview with the French writer Francois Mauriac, Wiesel was persuaded to end that silence. He subsequently wrote *La Nuit* (Night). Since its publication in 1958, *La Nuit* has been translated into 30 languages and millions of copies have been sold. In *Night*, Wiesel describes his experiences and emotions at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust: the roundup of his family and neighbors in the Romanian town of Sighet; deportation by cattle car to the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; the division of his family forever during the selection process; the mental and physical anguish he and his fellow prisoners experienced as they were stripped of their humanity; and the death march from Auschwitz-Birkenau to the concentration camp at Buchenwald.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed him Chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. In 1980, he became Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Wiesel is also the founding president of the Paris-based Universal Academy of Cultures. Wiesel's efforts to defend human rights and peace throughout the world have earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Liberty Award, the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor, and in 1986, the Nobel Peace Prize. He has received more than



100 honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning. Three months after he received the Nobel Peace Prize, Elie Wiesel and his wife Marion established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Its mission is to advance the cause of human rights and peace throughout the world by creating a new forum for the discussion of urgent ethical issues confronting humanity.

His more than 40 books have won numerous awards, including the Prix Medicis for A Beggar in Jerusalem, the Prix Livre Inter for The Testament, and the Grand Prize for Literature from the City of Paris for The Fifth Son. The first volume of Wiesel's memoirs, All Rivers Run to the Sea, was published in New York (Knopf) in December 1995. The second volume, And the Sea is Never Full, was published in New York (Knopf) in November 1999. Elie Wiesel has been Distinguished Professor of Judaic Studies at the City University of New York (1972-1976), and first Henry Luce Visiting Scholar in the Humanities and Social Thought at Yale University (1982-1983). Since 1976, he has been the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University where he also holds the title of University Professor.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever gone through a very difficult situation and after you made it through you felt the need to help others?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Asher Yatzar

*"Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who formed man with wisdom and created within him many openings and many hollows (cavities). It is obvious and known before Your Throne of Glory that if but one of them were to be ruptured or if one of them were to be blocked it would be impossible to survive and to stand before You (even for a short period of time). Blessed are You, Hashem, Who heals all flesh and acts wonderously."*

**The awesome bracha of Asher Yatzar, (literally "who formed"), which refers to the complexity of the human body, thanks Hashem for creating our body and for the continuous daily miracle of its proper functioning. It is recited every morning as part of the Birchat HaShachar, (Morning Blessings) and again, every time after using the bathroom.**

**Yes, every time after using the bathroom, we wash our hands, and thank Hashem for maintaining our health and well being by reciting the bracha - Asher Yatzar. We shouldn't wait until we get sick to appreciate our health.**

**Asher Yatzar is mentioned in the Talmud (Berachot 60b) as one of the brachot compiled by the Anshei Knesset HaGedolah.**

**The Chafetz Chaim and other Great Sages write that the reciting of Asher Yatzar with the proper Kavanah (sincerity, devotion, intent) and from the written text, has the power to help one have a healthy body all of their life. There are many people who were saved from a severe illness by saying this Bracha from the written text with the proper kavanah. This is an easy way to keep down all those doctor fees!!**

**A sad and worried Jew once came to visit the Chazon Ish (Rav Yeshaya Karelitz) in Bnei Brak. When the man entered, the Chazon Ish was saying the Asher Yatzar Bracha. He pronounced each word slowly and clearly. The man couldn't contain himself any longer and blurted out, "My child has polio and the doctors say there's no hope."**

**The Chazon Ish emphasized the last words of the bracha, "Who heals all flesh and acts wonderously." The Chazon Ish then turned to the man and said, "So, you hear that Hashem does wonders." This is all the Chazon Ish said to the man. The child had a completely recovery. Dr. Kenneth M. Prager, M.D., states; "(While).. in medical school .. I first began to understand the appropriateness of this short prayer.... After seeing patients whose lives revolved around their dialysis machines, and while caring for patients with colostomies and urinary catheters, I realized how wise the Rabbis had been [to institute this prayer]."**

**LEADER TIP:** How incredible is the human body? If any little little thing would stop working, our whole body would stop working! It's amazing how awesome Hashem is!





## This Week in Jewish History

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1898

### **Yahrtzeit of Shmuel Mohilever**

Rabbi Samuel Mohilever (1824-1898), also called Shmuel Mohilever, was a pioneer of Religious Zionism and one of the founders of the Hovevei Zion movement.

Mohilever was born in Vilna (now Vilnius) and studied in the Volozhin yeshiva.

After the pogroms following the May Laws, he helped found the Hovevei Zion in Warsaw, and convinced Baron Edmond James de Rothschild to financially support a settlement called Ekron (now Qiryat Ekron).

Mohilever was made the rabbi of Białystok in 1883 and worked to promote

Zionism by convincing Białystok's Jews to move to Petah Tikva, then a struggling settlement.



In 1884, Mohilever was elected to the presidency of the Hovevei Zion conference, with Leon Pinsker serving as chairman. Mohilever served as chairman in the 1887 and 1889 conferences. Many of his contributions were of a religious nature - Mohilever insured that Jewish farming in Palestine complied with Jewish laws and tradition by setting up a rabbinical committee to oversee it.

The kibbutz Gan Shmuel was named after Mohilever.

### **FIND...**

- Spies
- Yehoshua
- Calev
- Fruits
- Mincha
- Hafrashat
- Challah
- Tzitzit

### **STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- SHELACH**

37th of the 54 sedras; 4th of 10 in Bamidbar  
 Written on 198 lines in a Sefer Torah  
 10 Parshiyot; 7 open, 3 closed;  
 119 p'sukim, ranks 21st, 6th in Bamidbar  
 1540 words, ranks 27th, 5th in Bamidbar  
 5820 letters, ranks 27th, 4th in Bamidbar  
 Sh'lach has shorter than average p'sukim; that explains the drop in ranking for words and letters

### **MITZVOT**

3 of 613 mitzvot (2 pos. 1 prohibition)

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE KENESSET MOVED TO YERUSHALAYIM?

Email your answers to [YOUTH@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG) along with your **NAME** and **AGE** for a chance to win **AWESOME PRIZES!** Each correct answer will enter your name into a raffle that will happen once a month. Behatzlacha!

#### THIS JUST IN!

- **No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.**
- **"I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.**
- **The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.**
- **$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$**

**For more info please feel free to contact us at [youth@youngisrael.org](mailto:youth@youngisrael.org)**

C L T I Z T I Z T P D  
S K D R J Y K T D P I  
E E K V Q X K V T N A  
I Y C Y E H O S H U A  
P A G A G E J G T T C  
S S T I U R F F N Y O  
T T X C D K E X L E C  
M Q U V M I N C H A A  
Q K E E C H D O Q C L  
S T A H S A R F A H E  
Z P I C H A L L A H V

#### Parsha Points to Ponder...

Moshe sent the spies to see the land. Whom did he pick to go? The Torah tells us: KULAM ANASHIM, RASHE BNEI ISRAEL HEMAH, "...they were all men, heads of the Children of Israel." (Num. 13,3) Rashi explains that when the Torah uses the expression "men" it implies important individuals. If they were such wonderful people what made them go astray? When these people entered Israel during their journey they began to realize that living in Israel will not be the same as living in the Wilderness. Throughout their travels, Hashem was with them and Moshe lead them with miraculous means. Whenever there was a problem it was solved with the help of the Almighty. They realized that once they entered Israel things would change. There they would get involved in world politics. There they would have to use their own judgment as to what action they should take. There they would need an army to battle constantly with the surrounding enemies. Life in Israel will not be as simple as it was in the Wilderness. Hence they decided to discourage the tribes. The truth is that Israel today is experiencing the same dilemma. What sounded like an easy proposition to start the State of Israel is proving to be a very difficult task because of the surrounding enemies near and far. We must remember, however, that even in Israel Hashem is with us and we must not despair. Hashem does not abandon us even as he was with our forefathers when they entered Israel.

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